

For nearly fifteen years, its members have canvassed the Flemington Area for needy families during the holiday season. Last December, they raised enough money to shop for sixty families with over one hundred children. Four "Santas" personally presented each family with two large boxes of food, toys, games and clothing for the children.

This past January, the organization made another demonstration of its commitment to the community during times of crisis. On January 22, a gas explosion badly injured and burned a fire chief and police patrolman after they responded to a 911 call, resulting in their lengthy hospitalization. In response, the organization hosted a benefit spaghetti dinner. With a massive volunteer effort, members worked as cooks, dishwashers, and parking attendants. Contributing both time and money, the group served over 800 dinners, raising enough funds to present the two men checks of \$5,000 each when they were finally discharged from the hospital.

As extraordinary as this effort was, it was just one of many times that the American Legion Auxiliary #159 has worked on behalf of those in need. Throughout the years, the American Legion Auxiliary #159 has donated money to Special Olympics, Childrens Miracle Network, Cancer Research, March of Dimes, Red Cross, Salvation Army and numerous other local charities. Working with its "Legion Family" that includes the American Legion and Sons of the American Legion Post #159, it has continually demonstrated its dedication to the community.

The American Legion Auxiliary #159 is a great asset to both Central New Jersey and our nation. I urge all my colleagues to join me today in recognizing its dedication to community service and Central New Jersey.

TRIBUTE TO MR. GEORGE DONALD O'QUINN

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the life and career of Mr. George Donald O'Quinn. Two weeks ago, Mr. O'Quinn retired as Principal of Boone Trail Elementary School after 38 years of committed and dedicated service. Mr. O'Quinn has never asked for a medal or a monument; he has only hoped for the success of his students, his school, and his community. It is fitting then that today we honor the accomplishments of this humble public servant.

Mr. O'Quinn was born in 1937 and raised in the community he so proudly served. In fact, he attended the same school that he would later capably lead for so many years. After earning his Bachelors of Science degree in Agriculture from North Carolina State University in 1961, Mr. O'Quinn began teaching at Coats High School, in Dunn, NC. Over the next five years, he taught at Lillington High School and worked at Southern National Bank as that institution's vice president. Fortunately for the people of Lillington, Mr. O'Quinn returned to the classroom in 1972. After four

years of teaching Vocational Education at Boone Trail, he was named Principal, a position he would hold for the next 27 years.

It is also important to note that Mr. O'Quinn was engaged in the affairs of his community. He served and held leadership positions in numerous organizations, including the Harnett County Community Development Association, the North Carolina Farm Bureau, the Boone Trail and National Ruritan Club, and the Lillington Jaycees. Mr. O'Quinn also served as a Deacon and Sunday School Teacher at Anitoch Baptist Church. On top of his community activities, he was also able to raise a beautiful family with the able assistance of his wife Elaine.

Mr. Speaker, Donald O'Quinn's love for his community, his school, the children he mentored, and his family is truly remarkable. Tonight I praise him for nurturing so many children, embodying the spirit of his community, and sharing his gifts with us all.

TRIBUTE TO DOUGLAS "JOCKO" HENDERSON

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Douglas "Jocko" Henderson, who passed away July 15, 2000. Douglas "Jocko" Henderson was an innovative radio pioneer whose contribution to the industry is legendary. One of the first African American disc jockeys in Philadelphia, "Jocko" was known for his smooth rhyming rap before rap had a name.

From 1952 to 1974, Jocko hosted his "Rocketship" music program on radio stations WHAT and WDAS. He played the popular records of the day but introduced them with his silver-voiced rhyming style that other disc jockeys began to imitate. For many years he hosted popular radio programs in Philadelphia and New York. He also produced sell-out rhythm and blues shows at theaters on the east coast, from Miami to Boston.

In 1993 he was honored with a plaque on the Philadelphia Music Alliance's Walk of Fame.

In later years he developed and marketed a series of educational audiotapes designed to help teach children to read by utilizing his rhyming style.

Douglas "Jocko" Henderson was an innovator and a man of great talent and dignity.

HONORING RETIRING CON- NECTICUT STATE SENATOR ADELA "DELL" EADS

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a former colleague in the Connecticut State Senate, who after many dedicated years of service to the people of Connecticut, the

Senate and our political atmosphere as a whole, is stepping down.

Adela "Dell" Eads was born 80 years ago in Brooklyn, New York. She attended Sweet Briar College in Virginia as well as the Gibbs School in New York City. She began her political career in 1976 in the State House of Representatives where she served two terms. Dell was first elected to the Connecticut State Senate in 1980, and in her 20 years of service held numerous leadership positions in her party and the senate including Senate President Pro Tem and Minority Leader.

In a time where our political dialogue seems to be clouded by partisan bickering and grandstanding, Dell has always been the epitome of dignity and class. She is known today, as well as when I served with her in the state senate, as a bridge builder who always chose to do what she knew was best for her District and the State of Connecticut as a whole, rather than what was simply popular.

Even though we represent different political parties, I have nothing but sincere admiration for her as a former colleague and consummate public servant. The State of Connecticut and the Senate will surely miss her.

I ask the House of Representatives to recognize her career in public service as well as applaud the manner in which she has conducted herself during the last 24 years; with grace, understanding and most of all the willingness to work with others to accomplish what is right.

HONORING ED WATSON ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ed Watson of Houston for his abiding commitment to public service as he celebrates his 80th birthday. Texas is fortunate to have a native son who has spent his life working on behalf of his community, contributing unselfishly to numerous causes while raising a fine family.

Ed was born in "Pole Cat Ridge," Wallisville, Texas, on July 20, 1920. He graduated from Anahuac High School in 1939 and joined the U.S. Navy in 1942. After his service in World War II, he attended the University of Houston until he went to work in 1946 at Shell Oil Refinery in Deer Park. Ed and his wife Jerry were married at the Lawndale Baptist Church more than 50 years ago, on May 7, 1948.

Shortly after, Ed was called back into service during the Korean Conflict in 1950 for 15 months. In 1954, having outgrown their home in Pasadena, the Watsons and their four children moved to Deer Park. In March 1955, his family became members of the First Baptist Church of Deer Park.

Ed has been involved in politics and community affairs since 1947. He has been a member of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers International Union for more than 50 years, and he was serving as President of Local 4-367 when elected in 1972 as a member of the Texas House of Representatives, a

position in which he served for 8 terms. In the Texas Legislature, Ed was a leader on issues of law enforcement, education, environmental protection, and creating economic opportunity, and he served several terms as Chairman of the Harris County Delegation. Currently he is a Community Liaison on my congressional staff in Pasadena and Deer Park, Texas.

Ed is a charter member of the Deer Park Chamber of Commerce and a charter member of the Lions Club. He served fourteen years as a volunteer fireman and is now one of six honorary members. He has been actively involved in the Wheel House, a 30-day alcohol rehabilitation facility, since 1954 and serves on their board of directors. Ed visits daily, reaching out to the residents, solving problems when they arise, and fundraising.

Ed also serves on the board of directors of the Interfaith Helping Hands Ministry. He also volunteers his time at First Baptist Church, serving on the Benevolence Committee and reaching out to people not only in the church, but in the community as well. Because of his caring ways, Ed was named Dear Park Citizen of the Year in 1987. With Jerry, Ed also works with the Interfaith Helping Hands Ministry and she has served on the Bereavement Committee at First Baptist Church many times.

In all that he has done, Ed Watson has been a leader, organizer, and innovator. Known for his activism and leadership in both politics and public service, his legacy will be remembered by the community and to the many who have benefited from his good deeds.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Ed Watson on the occasion of his 80th birthday and to commend him on a lifetime of achievement. I join Ed's family and friends and all those he has inspired in honoring him on this occasion. May the coming years bring good health, happiness, and time to enjoy his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RULEMAKING PROCESS NEEDS A JUMP START

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Transportation's Office of the Inspector General today released the results of a study, done at my request, of the Department's rulemaking process. The IG's report conforms what many of us involved in transportation policy have suspected, that the DOT is doing a poor job meeting rulemaking deadlines.

According to the report, DOT is taking, on average, twice as long to issue rules as it did just six years ago. The report compares the number of significant rules completed in 1999, and the average time it complete each process, with corresponding figures from 1993. The results are not encouraging. In 1993, the department issued 45 rules and took an average of 1.8 years to complete work on each; in 1999, the department issued 20 new rules

after working an average of 3.8 years on each. In other words, DOT is taking twice as long to do half as much.

The study further shows that the Office of the Secretary is the slowest among the operating administrations in the department, taking an average of 6.6 years in 1999 to complete action on proposed rules. In 1993 the Secretary's office took an average of 4.4 years. The office issued the same number of rules—three—in 1993 and 1999.

The Federal Aviation Administration showed the most significant drop in rulemaking productivity in the study. In 1993, the FAA issued 17 significant rules and took an average of eight to nine months (0.7 years) to complete the process. In 1999, the FAA issued only three rules, and took an average of three years to finish work on each, four times as long to complete less than one-sixth the workload.

Only the Federal Railroad Administration and the Federal Transit Administration showed improvement in the average time to complete rulemaking between 1993 and 1999. However, the FRA issued only two rules in each of the two years studied, and FTA issued two rules in 1993 and one rule in 1999.

The report goes on to say that the department routinely misses statutory deadlines for issuing rules. The report shows that the DOT's record was poor in 1993 and has improved only marginally since then. In 1993, the department completed only 12 of 29 rules mandated by Congress (41.4 percent) and completed only four of the 29 by the mandated deadline (13.8 percent). In 1999, the department completed 21 of 43 such rules (48.8 percent) and met the deadline on 10 of them (23.2 percent). This is a dismal record.

The IG's report cites several reasons for these delays. In the case of Congressionally mandated rules, work is often delayed by a disagreement between Congress and the department over the content of the rule. The complexity of the rulemaking process also contributes to the problem. However, the report cites poor management by the modal administrators as a significant contributor to the lack of progress on new rules.

In its analysis of 54 completed rulemakings, the study that found rules languished an average of two years on the modal administrator's desk with no action taken. The report said in many cases the rulemaking process stalled because the administrator would not make a decision on whether a rule should advance or be terminated, did not consider the rule a priority, or waited for future events, such as the development of new technology, that would affect the rule.

When the modal administrator considers a rulemaking to be a priority, the process can move quickly. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration took less than one year to produce a rule providing grants to states with a legal blood alcohol limit of 0.08. Yet, NHTSA still has not completed action on a rule on the flammability of materials on school buses after working on it for 11 years. The report states that NHTSA has wanted to terminate the rule, but the Federal Transit Administration and the Deputy Secretary opposed terminating it. Even though the Deputy Secretary charged NHTSA to work with FTA to work out

their differences, NHTSA has not worked on the rule for the past three years.

These rules affect public safety—children on school buses, passengers in airplanes, ships at sea, motorists at rail crossings, neighborhoods near gas pipelines. We cannot allow bureaucratic gridlock to put people's lives at risk.

To its credit, the DOT, according to this report, has accepted the IG's findings and is taking steps to improve its management of the rulemaking process.

I have discussed this matter with Sec. Rodney Slater and urged him to use these remaining months to take significant action to reduce or eliminate this backlog of pending rules and provide a clean slate for the next administration.

I am very pleased with Sec. Slater's firm commitment to follow through and press the modal administrators to put the rule making process into high gear.

In doing so, the Secretary can show the American people that government can work efficiently, can be responsive to their concerns, and can adopt the same attitude of compliance that it demands of the private sector it regulates.

TRIBUTE TO DAUNE WEISS,
BUERGERMEISTER FOR THE
GAYLORD, MICHIGAN, ALPEN-
FEST 2000

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to a unique celebration in Gaylord, a small city in my northern Michigan district. The event is called Alpenfest, and over its 35 year history it has come to serve many purposes in Gaylord. Alpenfest is the community's major celebration, providing a broad range of family entertainment. Alpenfest spotlights the unique architectural heritage of Gaylord, where strict zoning codes require downtown businesses to conform to an Alpine motif. Perhaps most important for my remarks today, Mr. Speaker, Alpenfest provides a annual setting to name a community Burgermeister, an honorary mayor.

Daune Weiss, a Gaylord businesswoman and a close, personal friend, has received this honor for the year 2000. The local paper, the Gaylord Herald Times, describes this honor as the equivalent of being named the Citizen of the Year for Gaylord and Otsego County, and I can think of no person in the community more worthy of this special recognition to begin the new millennium.

Daune, a native of Upper Michigan, left the area but later returned. It's perhaps typical of Daune's view of her own contributions that she feels her 14 years of commitment to the local community don't measure up against those who have spent their lives here. A brief review of her accomplishments, a detailed in the Gaylord Herald Times, makes clear, however, that Gaylord has found one of its greatest friends.

The owner of the local Holiday Inn, Daune established a Wish Tree, helping to fulfill